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sciences, to which, attracted by the fame of its teaching, students from all parts of the world may flock, and from which shall go forth men to practise, to teach, and to administer the law with a true and high ideal of the dignity of their mission?" Admirable words! To many of the lovers of England and English law, it has long been a wonder that this consummation is so long delayed. It is devoutly to be wished that Lord Russell may now press the matter to a conclusion; nothing would bring more benefit to the law of his country, or more honor to himself and the great office which he holds.

Lord Russell's specific proposition is the establishing by royal charter of "The Inns of Court School of Law." The governing body is to consist of thirty members, ten named by the Inns, ten by the Crown, one each by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and the Master of the Rolls, one each by the four Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, and Victoria, and three by the Incorporated Law Society. "I should confer on such a body the granting of academic distinctions, and I should commit to it in fullest confidence the settling of a scheme of preliminary examination, of systematic instruction, and of final tests of fitness for the profession of the law. . . . To the Inns of Court, I need hardly say, we must mainly look for the funds to carry on the work in worthy fashion. . . . In the existing system the annual expenditure amounts to some £7,000. If the lectures and classes are made attractive, I doubt whether any larger sum, or, at all events, any substantially larger sum, would be required to work the scheme which I advocate."

This is suggesting what would be equivalent here to an endowment of say \$1,000,000. The existing permanent endowment of the Harvard Law School is a little under \$250,000.

THE SELDEN SOCIETY. — The Selden Society has shown commendable energy in overcoming past delays in its publications, and the issue of the selection of Coroner's Rolls, edited by Dr. Gross of Harvard University, will bring them up to date. Advance sheets of this last are now at hand. From these it appears that the volume will be an interesting one, and a great aid to the study of the functions of the Coroner, and of the history of the decay of his office from the time that it was held only by landed knights elected by the shire (furnishing perhaps the machinery for sending later such knights to Parliament) up to the early falling into disrepute of the crown's quest law and the recent rather ridiculous position of the office.

The subjects of inquests afford peculiar scope for dramatic effects, to which the style of the verdicts lends itself. For example, one reads that "Margaret went with a certain jug of the value of one penny to draw water from the said well in the said close and by chance slipped and fell into the said well and sank, and ill is thought of no man for the death of the said Margaret." Any one interested in the old crimes and the old modes of trial will find much that is new in these Rolls. The Selden Society deserve all praise and support for their services to the history of the common law.

REFORM IN LAW REPORTING. — If Coke in his day lamented the existence of so many as fifteen volumes of reported decisions, what is to be said

of the present state of affairs, when these volumes are to be counted by tens of thousands, and this vast number is being yearly augmented? It is a full recognition of the evil of this multiplicity of reports that has led the American Bar Association to constitute a permanent "Committee on Law Reporting and Digesting." Systematic efforts are henceforth to be made by the Committee toward preventing the duplication of State and Federal reports, and toward securing, too, more uniformity among reporters in the construction of both the index and the case syllabus. The Committee, as stated in their report submitted at the meeting of the Bar Association held at Detroit last August, sent a circular letter to the various official court reporters, — sixty-five in all. The answers, besides furnishing valuable data as to the defects in the present varying systems of reporting, reveal a nearly unanimous desire on the part of the writers for a convention of official reporters. In such a convention under the auspices of the Committee, there is a strong likelihood of inaugurating far-reaching and uniform remedial measures.

THE TORRENS LAND TRANSFER SYSTEM ON TRIAL. — At the recent election in Cook County, Illinois, it was voted to adopt the provisions of the Land Transfer Act passed by the last legislature. This brings the city of Chicago within the operation of the act. Although several States have at different times appointed commissioners to investigate the so-called "Torrens" land transfer system, that is, a system of transfer of land by record of title, it is now for the first time to be given a trial in this country. The merits and demerits of the system have been pretty well threshed out, and the consensus of opinion is strongly in its favor as an original question. As a powerful plea, however, against introducing it, it is urged that the conditions that have secured its success in a new country like Australia are lacking here; chiefly because the land, in our older States at least, is not under government ownership, which would permit the government to inaugurate without inconvenience such a system of transfer, but is parcelled out among a multitude of private landholders; and it is repugnant to them, long accustomed to our system of deed registration, to risk their land titles by a radical change in the methods of transfer. A demonstration, however, by actual test, that the transfer by record of title is capable of successfully supplanting our present methods will go a long way toward answering these conservative objections. The success of the Illinois experiment therefore probably insures like action in other States. In this lies its importance.

The act, while modelled upon the Torrens system as it exists in Australia, differs in one important respect. The first registration does not give absolute title; it confers possessory title merely; but as a result of a short period of limitation provided for in the same act, this possessory title becomes absolute, in the absence of adverse claims filed in the mean time, at the end of five years. Thus, by a little postponement of the time when the full benefit of the act is to be realized, the title is made absolute in a manner already familiar in this country; and there is no danger that the true owner's title may be summarily divested. As a result, too, the expense of an exhaustive examination of title, which necessarily precedes any registration conferring absolute title, is avoided.

The act has the merit also of excluding unnecessary detail. It leaves to the administrative officers the main burden of working out the details for carrying its provisions into effect. It was the heaping of detail on detail